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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY117
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commercial travelers and legitimate businessmen did make journeys when necessary, but the issue of travel permits was only resumed on 1 July.

6. The procedure for obtaining a permit to travel within China, but outside the Central and South China Area is described by a resident of Wuchang as follows:

The applicant gets a blank form from the public safety sub-bureau, fills it in, has it "chopped" with the seals of the shop and the shop-keeper, gets it guaranteed and "chopped" by two other shops and passes it to the head of the small residents' group. The head "chops" it and takes it to the "street government", who "chops" it again and sends it to the public safety sub-bureau. The sub-bureau interviews the applicant at length and, if satisfied with his reasons for travel, issues a permit for a maximum of forty days, usually much less.

7. Every returned traveler is thoroughly cross-questioned, especially if he is late returning. In the case of persons traveling for family reasons, this interrogation is often an outlet for the local despots' bullying instinct. In the case of business travelers, however, it fulfills the purpose of helping the Taxation Bureau to assess his liability for a business profits tax. The questions asked include a diary of the trip, exact description of goods carried, customs duty paid, prices obtained on sale, particulars of buyers and middle-men, travelling expenses and profits. The Taxation Bureaus are especially thorough in their questioning of persons returning from Hong Kong, as they are anxious to discover whether all the money earned has been duly remitted home through an authorized bank.
8. Persons who are never granted traveling permits include those who are on the local counter-revolutionary list (all former Nationalist officials) and the general black list (all reactionary classes, such as former landlords).
9. In East China, but apparently not in the Hankow area, passes are issued for travels between villages whenever the visits involve spending a night away from home. Such documents, however, are usually very simple; for example, a village schoolmaster in Pingyang, Chekiang did a thriving trade in forged travel permits until he was arrested. Even in areas where no document is necessary for travel within villages, official permission must be obtained and unauthorized journeys do not go unpunished.

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